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ABSTRACT

A learning module to introduce nurses to the main medical abbreviations and often-used prefixes and suffixes is presented. Learning objectives of the module are: to provide the definitions of often-used suffixes and prefixes, and to identify definitions of medical abbreviations. The following materials are presented: a pretest consisting of 30 abbreviations, answers to the pretest, a list of three medical dictionaries of abbreviations and acronyms, a 25-item posttest requiring matching of abbreviations and the answers, answers to the posttest, pretests for matching medical prefixes and suffixes and the answers, posttests for writing the definitions for 25 medical prefixes and 25 suffixes, and the answers for the posttests. A few learning activities are also suggested.
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COMMON MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY:

MODULARIZED INSTRUCTION FOR NURSES

BY

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INTRODUCTION:

The ability to communicate well is a prime requisite for all health professionals, particularly for nurses who occupy such strategic positions in the delivery of health care. Essential to communicating in the spoken and written word is a solid familiarization with medical terminology. This module is designed to introduce the nurse to the principal medical abbreviations and often-used prefixes and suffixes.

PREREQUISITES:

There are no formal prerequisites to this module. However, the nurse's prior ability to memorize common medical terminology will be instrumental in its completion.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Given a listing of principal medical abbreviations, the nurse will identify the definitions without error.
2. Given a list of often-used prefixes, the nurse will write their meanings with 100% accuracy.
3. From a list of often-used suffixes, the nurse will write their meanings without error.

PRE TEST: Objective 1

MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS

Directions: Write the English definitions to each of the following abbreviations.

- | | |
|-------------|-------|
| 1. ABR | _____ |
| 2. b.i.d. | _____ |
| 3. Fx | _____ |
| 4. ECG | _____ |
| 5. a.c. | _____ |
| 6. DRG | _____ |
| 7. BP | _____ |
| 8. Ty | _____ |
| 9. Ca | _____ |
| 10. FBS | _____ |
| 11. ad lib. | _____ |
| 12. q.h. | _____ |
| 13. CVA | _____ |
| 14. q.i.d. | _____ |
| 15. DOA | _____ |
| 16. p.r.n. | _____ |
| 17. ARD | _____ |
| 18. FHx | _____ |
| 19. p.o. | _____ |
| 20. MA | _____ |
| 21. Tx | _____ |
| 22. BBT | _____ |
| 23. HMO | _____ |
| 24. D/C | _____ |
| 25. q.d. | _____ |
| 26. stat. | _____ |
| 27. CBR | _____ |
| 28. DNR | _____ |
| 29. UTI | _____ |
| 30. CCU | _____ |

Check your answers on the following page.

PRE TEST: Objective 1 (Answers)

MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS

Directions: Write the English definitions to each of the following abbreviations.

1. ABR	<u>absolute bed rest</u>
2. b.i.d.	<u>bis in die, twice daily</u>
3. Fx	<u>fracture</u>
4. ECG	<u>electrocardiogram</u>
5. a.c.	<u>ante cibum, before meals</u>
6. DRG	<u>diagnosis related group</u>
7. BP	<u>blood pressure; bypass</u>
8. Ty	<u>type</u>
9. Ca	<u>cancer</u>
10. FBS	<u>fasting blood sugar</u>
11. ad lib.	<u>ad libitum, freely, as much as wanted</u>
12. q.h.	<u>quaque hora, every hour</u>
13. CVA	<u>cerebrovascular accident (stroke)</u>
14. q.i.d.	<u>quater in die, four times a day</u>
15. DOA	<u>dead on arrival</u>
16. p.r.n.	<u>pro re nata, as required</u>
17. ARD	<u>acute respiratory disease</u>
18. FHx	<u>family history</u>
19. p.o.	<u>per os, by mouth</u>
20. MA	<u>mental age</u>
21. Tx	<u>treatment</u>
22. BBT	<u>basal body temperature</u>
23. HMO	<u>health maintenance organization</u>
24. D/C	<u>discontinue</u>
25. q.d.	<u>quaque die, every day</u>
26. stat.	<u>statim, immediately</u>
27. CBR	<u>complete bed rest</u>
28. DNR	<u>do not resuscitate</u>
29. UTI	<u>urinary tract infection</u>
30. CCU	<u>coronary care unit</u>

ENABLING ACTIVITIES

Objective 1: MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS

1. Study the contents of one of the following sources to familiarize yourself with abbreviations for medical terms:

Dictionary of Abbreviations in Medicine and the Health Sciences by Harold K. Hughes. D.C. Heath and Company, Lexington Books, 1977.

or

McGraw-Hill Nursing Dictionary. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1979.

or

Abbreviations and Acronyms in Medicine and Nursing by Solomon Garb, Eleanor Krakauer and Carson Justice. New York: Springer Publishing Company, 1976.

2. Devise a crossword puzzle using the principal medical abbreviations and their English definitions.
3. Plan a practice of your own.

POST TEST: Objective 1

MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS

Directions: Match the items in Column A with the items in Column B.

<u>Column A</u>	<u>Column B</u>
1. b.i.d.	_____ as required
2. a.c.	_____ acute respiratory disease
3. q.h.	_____ by mouth
4. q.i.d.	_____ health maintenance organization
5. p.r.n.	_____ as much as wanted
6. q.d.	_____ fasting blood sugar
7. stat.	_____ discontinue
8. DRG	_____ twice daily
9. ad lib.	_____ stroke
10. FHx	_____ mental age
11. Tx	_____ four times a day
12. CBR	_____ basal body temperature
13. UTI	_____ dead on arrival
14. p.o.	_____ diagnosis related group
15. ARD	_____ do not resuscitate
16. FBS	_____ family history
17. BP	_____ urinary tract infection
18. HMO	_____ type
19. D/C	_____ every hour
20. CVA	_____ blood pressure
21. MA	_____ immediately
22. BBT	_____ complete bed rest
23. Ty	_____ before meals
24. DOA	_____ treatment
25. DNR	_____ every day

Check your answers on the following page.

POST TEST: Objective 1 (Answers)

MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS

Directions: Match the items in Column A with the items in Column B.

Column A

1. b.i.d.
2. a.c.
3. q.h.
4. q.i.d.
5. p.r.n.
6. q.d.
7. stat.
8. DRG
9. ad lib.
10. FHx
11. Tx
12. CBR
13. UTI
14. p.o.
15. ARD
16. FBS
17. BP
18. HMO
19. D/C
20. CVA
21. MA
22. BBT
23. Ty
24. DOA
25. DNR

Column B

- 5 as required
- 15 acute respiratory disease
- 14 by mouth
- 18 health maintenance organization
- 9 as much as wanted
- 16 fasting blood sugar
- 19 discontinue
- 1 twice daily
- 20 stroke
- 21 mental age
- 4 four times a day
- 22 basal body temperature
- 24 dead on arrival
- 8 diagnosis related group
- 25 do not resuscitate
- 10 family history
- 13 urinary tract infection
- 23 type
- 3 every hour
- 17 blood pressure
- 7 immediately
- 12 complete bed rest
- 2 before meals
- 11 treatment
- 6 every day

PRE TEST: Objective 2

MEDICAL PREFIXES

Directions: On the line to the left of each term in Column A, write the letter of the word(s) in Column B that matches the term.

Column A

1. _____ cysto-
2. _____ osteo-
3. _____ pneuma-
4. _____ thoraco-
5. _____ hypo-
6. _____ auriculo-
7. _____ ophthalmo-
8. _____ pedi-
9. _____ adeno-
10. _____ cephalo-
11. _____ cardio-
12. _____ hyper-
13. _____ endo-
14. _____ arthro-
15. _____ nephro-
16. _____ hepato-
17. _____ psycho-
18. _____ myo-
19. _____ cervico-
20. _____ neuro-
21. _____ rhino-
22. _____ pyo-
23. _____ recto-
24. _____ derma-
25. _____ cranio-
26. _____ gastro-
27. _____ glyco-
28. _____ uro-
29. _____ phlebo-
30. _____ orchio-

Column B

- a. eye
- b. mental, mind
- c. interior
- d. decreased
- e. kidney
- f. rectum
- g. bladder
- h. liver
- i. nerve
- j. foot
- k. sugar
- l. nose
- m. pus
- n. breathing, respiration
- o. vein
- p. gland
- q. testicle
- r. increased
- s. urine
- t. stomach
- u. chest
- v. muscle
- w. head
- x. skin
- y. ear
- z. skull
- aa. heart
- bb. joint
- cc. neck
- dd. bone

Check your answers on the following page.

PRE TEST: Objective 2 (Answers)

MEDICAL PREFIXES

Directions: On the line to the left of each term in Column A, write the letter of the word(s) in Column B that matches the term.

Column A

1. g cysto-
2. od osteo-
3. n pneuma-
4. u thoraco-
5. d hypo-
6. y auriculo-
7. a ophthalmo-
8. j pedi-
9. p adeno-
10. w cephalo-
11. aa cardio-
12. r hyper-
13. c endo-
14. bb arthro-
15. e nephro-
16. h hepato-
17. b psycho-
18. v myo-
19. cc cervico-
20. i neuro-
21. l rhino-
22. m pyo-
23. f recto-
24. x derma-
25. z cranio-
26. t gastro-
27. k glyco-
28. s uro-
29. o phlebo-
30. q orchio-

Column B

- a. eye
- b. mental, mind
- c. interior
- d. decreased
- e. kidney
- f. rectum
- g. bladder
- h. liver
- i. nerve
- j. foot
- k. sugar
- l. nose
- m. pus
- n. breathing, respiration
- o. vein
- p. gland
- q. testicle
- r. increased
- s. urine
- t. stomach
- u. chest
- v. muscle
- w. head
- x. skin
- y. ear
- z. skull
- aa. heart
- bb. joint
- cc. neck
- dd. bone

ENABLING ACTIVITIES

Objective 2: MEDICAL PREFIXES

1. Read the appropriate introductory pages on medical prefixes in Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary, Twenty-Sixth Edition, (Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Company, 1981). or in Illustrated Stedman's Medical Dictionary, 24th Edition, (Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins, 1982).
2. Develop a game using medical prefixes as content. Play the game with fellow classmates. Arrange for class time.
3. Plan a practice of your own.

POST TEST: Objective 2

MEDICAL PREFIXES

Directions: Write the definitions to the following medical prefixes.

- | | |
|----------------|-------|
| 1. cysto- | _____ |
| 2. osteo- | _____ |
| 3. pneuma- | _____ |
| 4. phlebo- | _____ |
| 5. uro- | _____ |
| 6. cranio- | _____ |
| 7. recto- | _____ |
| 8. glyco- | _____ |
| 9. derma- | _____ |
| 10. pyo- | _____ |
| 11. rhino- | _____ |
| 12. thoraco- | _____ |
| 13. hypo- | _____ |
| 14. ophthalmo- | _____ |
| 15. neuro- | _____ |
| 16. myo- | _____ |
| 17. hepato- | _____ |
| 18. pedi- | _____ |
| 19. adeno- | _____ |
| 20. cephalo- | _____ |
| 21. endo- | _____ |
| 22. hyper- | _____ |
| 23. nephro- | _____ |
| 24. arthro- | _____ |
| 25. orchio- | _____ |

Check your answers on the following page.

POST TEST: Objective 2 (Answers)

MEDICAL PREFIXES

Directions: Write the definitions to the following medical prefixes.

1. cysto-	bladder
2. osteo-	bone
3. pneumonia-	breathing, respiration
4. phlebo-	vein
5. uro-	urine
6. cranio-	skull
7. recto-	rectum
8. glyco-	sugar
9. derma-	skin
10. pyo-	pus
11. rhino-	nose
12. thoraco-	chest
13. hypo-	decreased
14. ophthalmo-	eye
15. neuro-	nerve
16. myo-	muscle
17. hepato-	liver
18. pedi-	foot
19. adeno-	gland
20. cephalo-	head
21. endo-	interior
22. hyper-	increased
23. nephro-	kidney
24. arthro-	joint
25. orchio-	testicle

PRE TEST: Objective 3

MEDICAL SUFFIXES

Directions: On the line to the left of each term in Column A, write the letter of the word(s) in Column B that matches the term.

Column A

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 1. _____ | - agra | a. speech |
| 2. _____ | - algia | b. blood |
| 3. _____ | - stomy | c. measure |
| 4. _____ | - sonic | d. sound |
| 5. _____ | - opia | e. presence of stones |
| 6. _____ | - ose | f. disease |
| 7. _____ | - pathy | g. excessive discharge |
| 8. _____ | - phasia | h. strength |
| 9. _____ | - uria | i. expelling |
| 10. _____ | - itis | j. pain |
| 11. _____ | - rhea | k. science of, study of |
| 12. _____ | - cyte | l. attack, severe pain |
| 13. _____ | - emia | m. destructive, killing |
| 14. _____ | - ectomy | n. tumor |
| 15. _____ | - fuge | o. urine |
| 16. _____ | - ol | p. inflammation of |
| 17. _____ | - meter | q. indicates discharge |
| 18. _____ | - kinesis | r. eye |
| 19. _____ | - logy | s. condition |
| 20. _____ | - ptosis | t. mental disorder |
| 21. _____ | - cide | u. fear |
| 22. _____ | - phrenia | v. pain |
| 23. _____ | - lithiasis | w. motion |
| 24. _____ | - phobia | x. cell |
| 25. _____ | - iatrics | y. alcohol |
| 26. _____ | - sthenia | z. surgical opening |
| 27. _____ | - osis | aa. falling |
| 28. _____ | - dynia | bb. removal of |
| 29. _____ | - oscopy | cc. field of medicine |
| 30. _____ | - oma | dd. sugar |

Check your answers on the following page.

PRE TEST: Objective 3 (Answers)

MEDICAL SUFFIXES

Directions: On the line to the left of each term in Column A, write the letter of the word(s) in Column B that matches the term.

Column A

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. <u>l</u> - agra | a. speech |
| 2. <u>v</u> - algia | b. blood |
| 3. <u>z</u> - stomy | c. measure |
| 4. <u>d</u> - sonic | d. sound |
| 5. <u>r</u> - opia | e. presence of stones |
| 6. <u>dd</u> - ose | f. disease |
| 7. <u>f</u> - pathy | g. excessive discharge |
| 8. <u>a</u> - phasia | h. strength |
| 9. <u>o</u> - uria | i. expelling |
| 10. <u>p</u> - itis | j. pain |
| 11. <u>g</u> - rhea | k. science of, study of |
| 12. <u>x</u> - cyte | l. attack, severe pain |
| 13. <u>b</u> - emia | m. destructive killing |
| 14. <u>bb</u> - ectomy | n. tumor |
| 15. <u>i</u> - fuge | o. urine |
| 16. <u>y</u> - ol | p. inflammation of |
| 17. <u>c</u> - meter | q. indicates discharge |
| 18. <u>w</u> - kinesis | r. eye |
| 19. <u>k</u> - logy | s. condition |
| 20. <u>aa</u> - ptosis | t. mental disorder |
| 21. <u>m</u> - cide | u. fear |
| 22. <u>t</u> - phrenia | v. pain |
| 23. <u>e</u> - lithiasis | w. motion |
| 24. <u>u</u> - phobia | x. cell |
| 25. <u>cc</u> - iatrics | y. alcohol |
| 26. <u>h</u> - sthenia | z. surgical opening |
| 27. <u>s</u> - osis | aa. falling |
| 28. <u>j</u> - dynia | bb. removal of |
| 29. <u>q</u> - oscopy | cc. field of medicine |
| 30. <u>n</u> - oma | dd. sugar |

ENABLING ACTIVITIES

Objective 3: MEDICAL SUFFIXES

1. Read the appropriate introductory pages on medical prefixes in Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary, Twenty-Sixth Edition, (Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Company, 1981) or in a similar medical dictionary.
2. Make a set of flash cards using the most common medical suffixes. Try them with a fellow classmate.
3. Plan a practice of your own.

POST TEST: Objective 3

MEDICAL SUFFIXES

Directions: Write the definitions to the following medical suffixes.

1. -stomy
2. -sonic
3. -opia
4. -ose
5. -pathy
6. -phasia
7. -uria
8. -itis
9. -rhea
10. -cyte
11. -emia
12. -ectomy
13. -fuge
14. -meter
15. -kinesis
16. -logy
17. -stosis
18. -cide
19. -phrenia
20. -phobia
21. -iatrics
22. -osis
23. -dynia
24. -oma
25. -oscopy

Check your answers on the following page.

POST TEST: Objective 3 (Answers)

MEDICAL SUFFIXES

Directions: Write the definitions to the following medical suffixes.

1. -stomy	surgical opening
2. -sonic	sound
3. -opia	eye
4. -ose	sugar
5. -pathy	disease
6. -phasia	speech
7. -uria	urine
8. -itis	inflammation of
9. -rhea	excessive discharge
10. -cyte	cell
11. -emia	blood
12. -ectomy	removal of
13. -fuge	expelling
14. -meter	measure
15. -kinesis	motion
16. -logy	study of, science of
17. -stosis	falling
18. -cide	destructive, killing
19. -phrenia	mental disorder
20. -phobia	fear
21. -iatrics	field of medicine
22. -osis	condition
23. -dynia	pain
24. -oma	tumor
25. -oscopy	indicates discharge